

National Canners Association

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information
Letter



For N. C. A.
Members

Membership Letter No. 105.

March 28, 1925.

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Association's Service Appreciated.

Presentation of an analysis by the National Canners Association of samples from a shipment of salmon reimported from England was recently instrumental in obtaining release of the shipment, which had been held at the port of entry by food authorities on the ground that it was adulterated. The charge was not borne out by the analysis, and further examination by the food officials confirmed the Association's findings.

This incident illustrates the service that the Association is able to render because of its technical equipment and its attitude toward full, and at the same time, fair and reasonable enforcement of the pure-food laws.

"We appreciate very much your assistance in this matter", wrote the firm concerned. "We have come to look upon it so much as a matter of course, I am afraid we sometimes forget to thank you".

Pea Aphis Experiments Under Way in California.

The Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, is continuing its tests of the aphidozer in control of aphis on canners' peas. J. E. Dudley, Jr., and Roy Campbell, of that Bureau, are at present making experiments in California pea fields, where it is reported that sufficient aphis has developed to make it possible to get a satisfactory test of the efficiency of the aphidozer in controlling the pest on rowed peas.

The latest and most effective nicotine dust treatment is being compared with the aphidozer on a competitive basis in the California treatments, to see which is the more effective method of control.

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Mr. Dudley expects to return to Wisconsin in time to continue his experiments and demonstrations with the aphidozer during the Wisconsin season. It is understood that several canners have purchased this machine for experimental use during the coming season in other parts of the pea-canning territory. Results secured up to date indicate strongly that use of the aphidozer will prove a cheap and satisfactory means of controlling the pea louse.

Labeling of Mayonnaise.

The Bureau of Chemistry, in a letter under date of March 23, regarding the labeling of mayonnaise, states that it has never announced any definition and standard for this product. The Bureau has, however, expressed the opinion that the word "mayonnaise" should be confined to a product prepared from eggs, condiments and a vegetable oil.

New Citrus Pectin Method.

In a study of the use of the residue from the manufacture of citrus by-products, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has developed a successful method for producing citrus pectin on a commercial scale. The study and the methods evolved are discussed in Bulletin 1323 just issued by the Department of Agriculture, copies of which may be obtained by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Hearings on Proposed Federal Bean Grades.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has begun a series of public hearings on the subject of bean grades, the first hearing having occurred at San Francisco on March 25. Others are scheduled as follows: Twin Falls, Idaho, March 31; Billings, Mont., April 7; Denver, Colo., April 10; Lansing, Mich., April 24; Rochester, N. Y., April 27. At these hearings are being considered proposed grades formulated from information obtained by the Department of Agriculture. The Department has also mailed copies of the proposed grades to individual canners and has invited suggestions by correspondence.

Pamphlet on Inoculation of Peas.

The results of studies on the effect of inoculation on the yield and quality of peas for canning, made during the 1924 season by the Wisconsin College of Agriculture, are now available in an illustrated pamphlet of 24 pages by A. L. Whiting, E. B. Fred and J. W. Stevens, issued by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison.

Dr. Whiting, it will be recalled, addressed the Annual Convention at Cincinnati on this subject, and he has also spoken at other canners' meetings during the last few months. The pamphlet - "Inoculation Increases Yield and Quality of Peas for Canning" - presents a complete statement of the work in convenient form. Copies can be obtained by writing to the Agricultural Experiment Station at Madison.

Federal Trade Commission to Study Cooperatives.

The growth of cooperative associations, their cost of marketing and distribution as compared with other distributors, and the extent to which their formation and operation are interfered with or obstructed by any cooperative or trade association in alleged violation of antitrust laws, will be investigated by the Federal Trade Commission, in compliance with a resolution adopted at the recent special session of the U. S. Senate.

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The need for such an investigation is found, according to the resolution, in the apparent public benefit of cooperative organizations, the lack of complete and conclusive information respecting their advantages or disadvantages, and the charge, frequently made, that various cooperative organizations of farmers' as well as consumers' cooperatives are being discriminated against and injured by various corporations and trade associations.

Figures on Carload Shipments of Vegetables.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has just issued as Statistical Bulletin No. 9 a detailed report on carload shipments of eighteen kinds of vegetables from stations in the United States during the years 1920-1923. Similar information relating to fruits and melons was given in Statistical Bulletin No. 8. Another pamphlet (Statistical Bulletin No. 4) furnishes figures on cold storage holdings to October, 1924, for eight different classes of articles. The bulletin also contains some interesting statistics on refrigerated space in public and private cold-storage plants.

Britain Takes up the Canned Food Dinner Idea.

Grocers in England have been discussing a "Canned Foods Week" to be held in June, and in view of the interest manifested in the proposal, a New Castle-on-Tyne firm has issued a circular giving a menu for an all-canned dinner.

"Such an effort to emphasize the variety and quality of canned foods can not fail to serve a useful purpose", says the London Grocer, "and we hope that in the 'Eat-More-Canned-Foods-Campaign', many retailers will benefit by the hint the circular and menu offer."

It is interesting that in this trade journal report and in the menu mentioned, use is made of "canned foods" instead of "canned goods" - the term so generally employed in England.

Canada is also planning for a Canned Foods Week, and has asked the Association for information regarding the methods of organizing the event in the United States.

Growing Lima Beans and Beets for Canning in New York State.

Canners of beets and lima beans, especially in the Northern States, will be interested in two recent mimeographed publications by H. S. Mills of the Department of Vegetable Gardening of Cornell University, entitled respectively, "Growing Lima Beans for the Canneries in New York", and "Growing Beets for the Canning Factories in New York". The topics discussed for each of these canning crops include soil, climatic requirements, rotations, fertilizers, harvesting and yields, care of crop, preparation of the soil, and varieties. These may be obtained from the New York State College of Agriculture Extension Service, Ithaca, New York.

Tariff Commission Report on Sardines.

The U. S. Tariff Commission has just published an interesting survey of the domestic and foreign sardine industries under the title "Tariff Information, Surveys on Articles in Paragraph 720 of the Tariff Act of 1922 - Sardines". In addition to a description of the industry of Maine and California, information is included on foreign production and exports, imports into the United States, prices and

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costs of production, and competitive conditions, with some valuable statistical tables. Copies can be secured from the office of this Association or direct from the U. S. Tariff Commission, Washington, D. C.

U. S. Board of Tax Appeals Decisions.

A resolution of the board of directors of a corporation directing that a surplus fund be placed to the credit of the stockholders "to be paid to the stockholders when and as directed by the officers or directors", constitutes a dividend at the time the resolution was passed.

The Board of Tax Appeals has no jurisdiction to consider an appeal filed by a taxpayer on behalf of other taxpayers similarly situated who do not join in the appeal.

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